



STATE REPRESENTATIVE **BETH MEYERS**

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REPRESENTATIVE MEYERS STATEMENT ON GOP TRYING TO ABOLISH AUDIT BUREAU

MADISON – State Representative Beth Meyers (D – Bayfield) issued the following statement regarding the recent legislative proposal to eliminate the Legislative Audit Bureau.

“The proposal to eliminate the nonpartisan, award-winning Legislative Audit Bureau is a mind-blowing power grab by the members of the Majority party. I’m shocked that members of the State Assembly would introduce legislation which would replace the Audit Bureau with partisan appointees,” said Meyers.

On Monday, June 8th, Republican lawmakers circulated a bill which would replace Wisconsin’s independent Legislative Audit Bureau and instead use a system of inspectors general working within Wisconsin state agencies. Recently the Legislative Audit Bureau released its report on the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, also known as WEDC. This state agency has been scrutinized since its inception and recently the Audit Bureau found that agency did not accurately disclose the numbers of jobs created by its programs and did not require grant and loan recipients to submit information showing that jobs were actually created or retained.

“Constituents in my district have spoken to me repeatedly about the state budget and about WEDC. Eliminating the Legislature’s watchdog non-partisan agency reeks of distrust of state government and taxpayers deserve accountability,” stated Meyers.

The Wisconsin State Legislature relies on these non-partisan service agencies, such as the Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau, Fiscal Bureau and Reference Bureau. They are used as resources for both houses of the Legislature and by citizens, providing unbiased and objective information. These service agencies should be left whole.

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